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(54) Abstract Title
Pre-distortion pre-coder optimised for network access contention word

(57) In a fixed wireless access (FWA) communications system comprising an Access Point (501) and a plurality of Subscriber Units (502-1, 502-2...502-N) each Subscriber Unit transmits a contention word when it wishes to obtain access to transmit data. Each Subscriber Unit (502) includes a linear precoder (517) which predistorts the contention word to compensate for the impulse response of the transmission channel between it and the Access Point (501). The precoder (517) is optmisised specifically for the contention word to be transmitted instead of for general data (516).

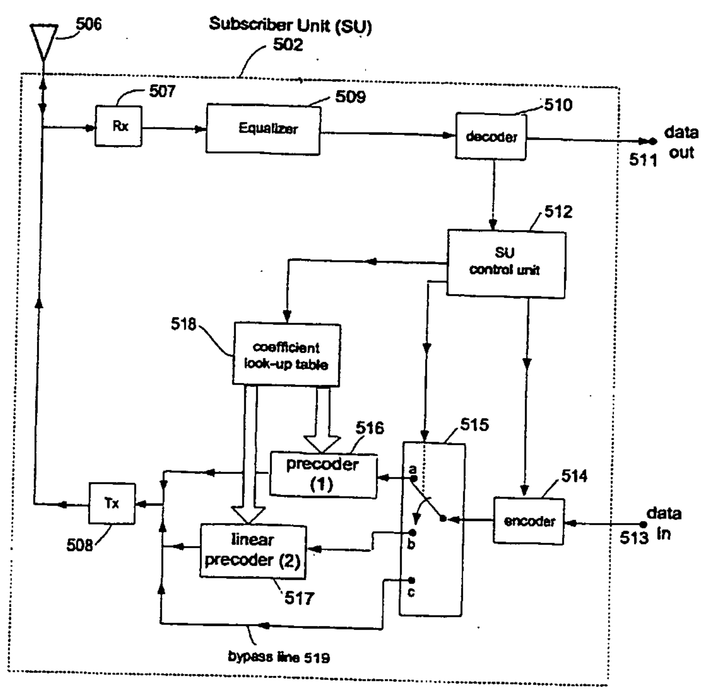
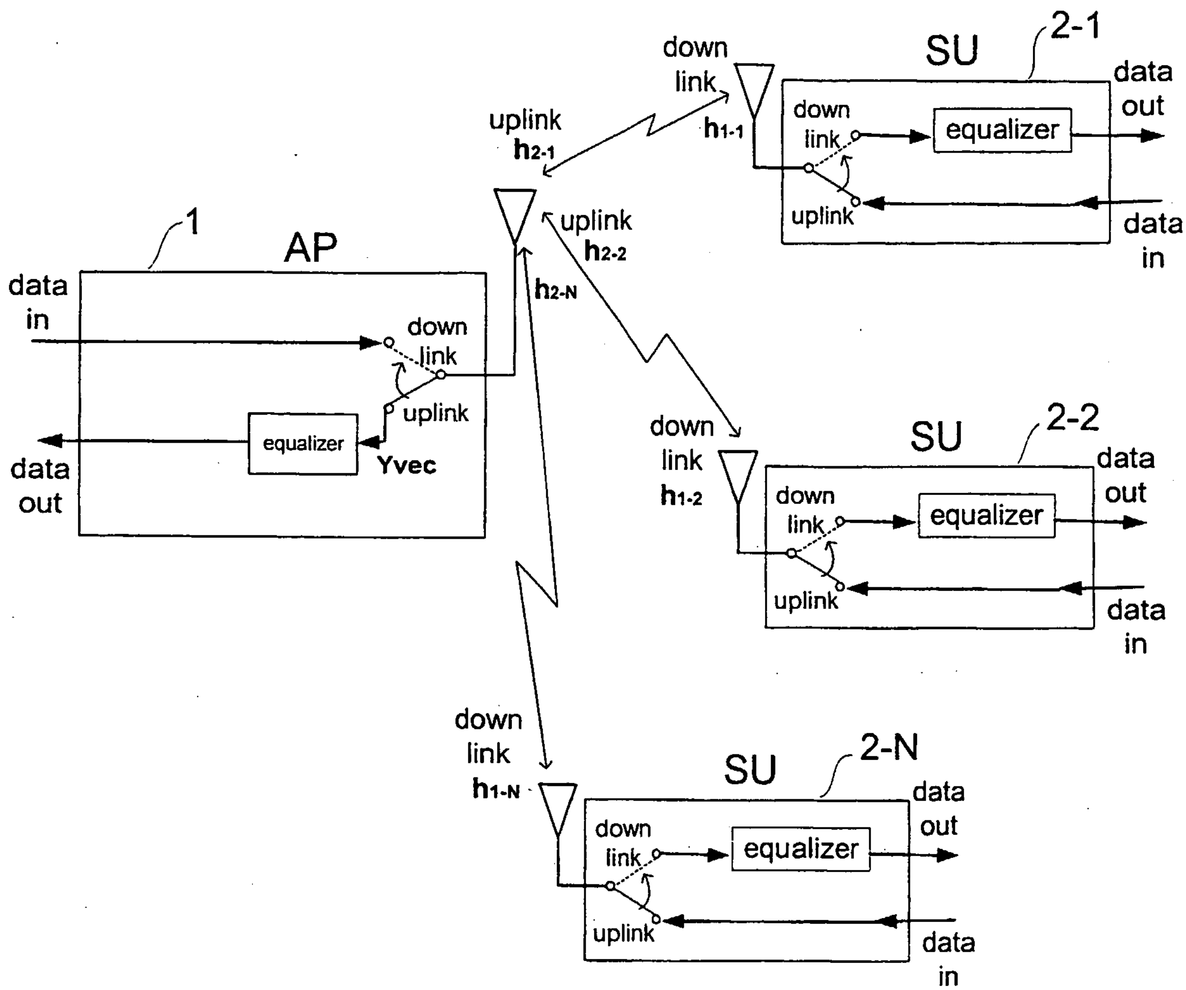


Figure 3

GB 2 378 103 A



Wireless communications network
(PRIOR ART)

Figure 1

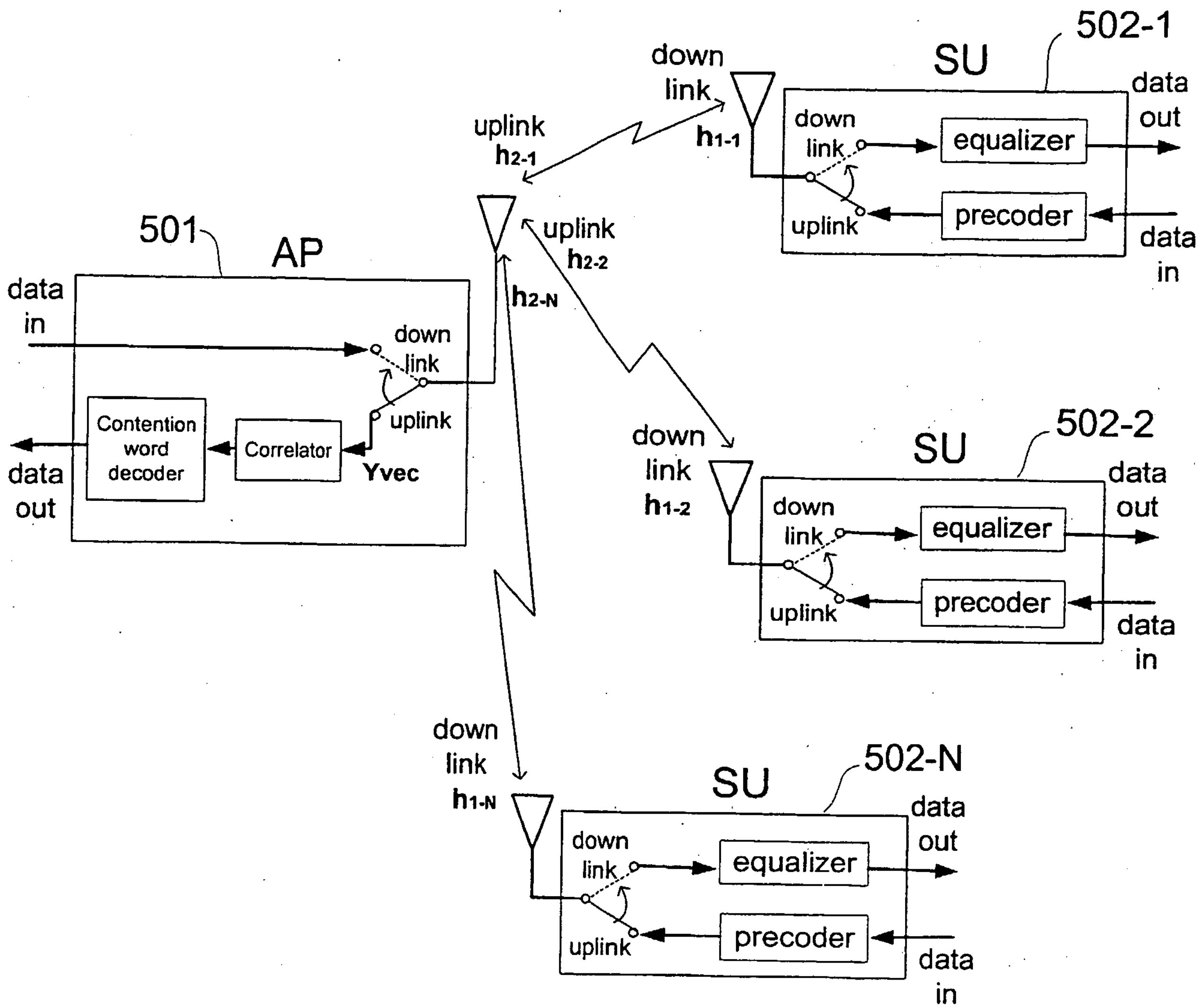

502-1
SU
down
link
h1-1
down
link
equalizer
data
out
uplink
h2-1
uplink
precoder
data
in
501
AP
uplink
h2-2
data
in
h2-N
down
link
uplink
Contention
word
decoder
Correlator
Yvec
data
out
down
link
h1-2
502-2
SU
data
out
down
link
equalizer
uplink
precoder
data
in
down
link
h1-N
SU
502-N
data
out
down
link
equalizer
uplink
precoder
data
in

Figure 2

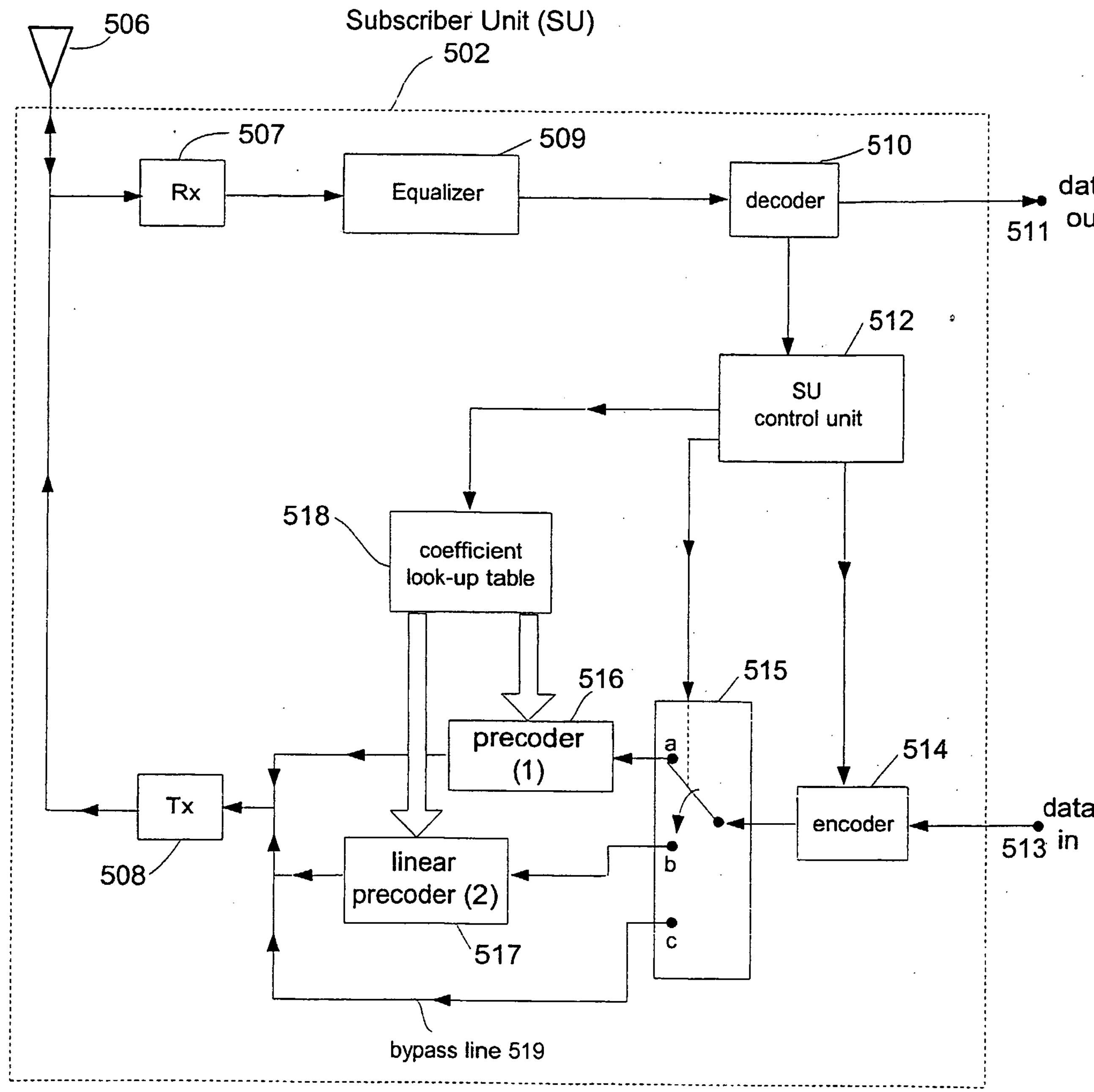
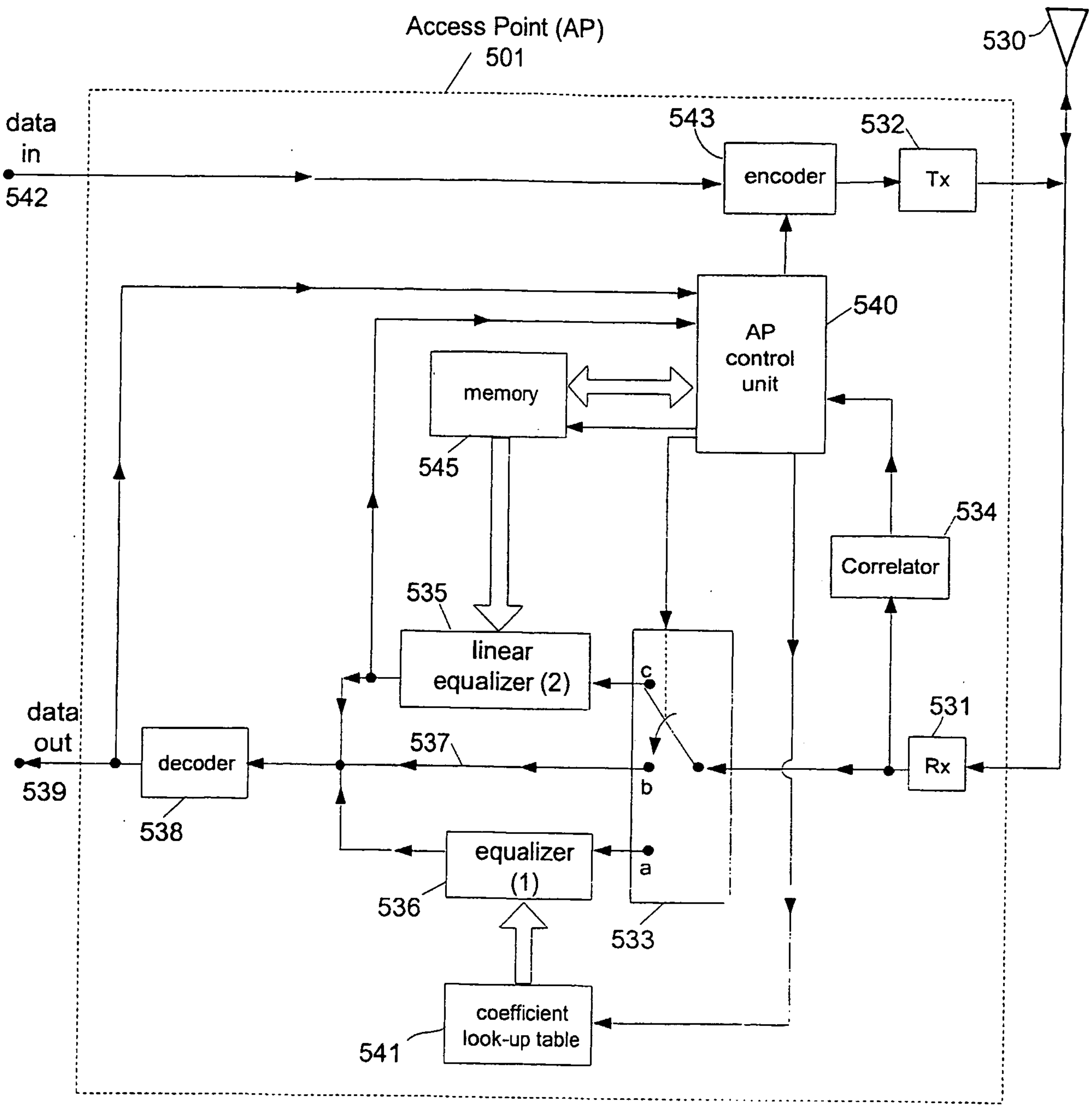

506
Subscriber Unit (SU)
502
507
509
510
Rx
Equalizer
decoder
data out
511
512
SU control unit
518
coefficient look-up table
516
515
514
precoder (1)
a
Tx
encoder
data in
513
b
508
linear precoder (2)
c
517
bypass line 519

Figure 3



Access Point (AP)
501
530
543
532
data
in
542
encoder
Tx
AP
control
unit
540
memory
545
534
Correlator
535
linear
equalizer (2)
c
531
data
out
539
decoder
538
537
b
Rx
equalizer
(1)
a
536
533
coefficient
look-up table
541

Figure 4

linear precoder

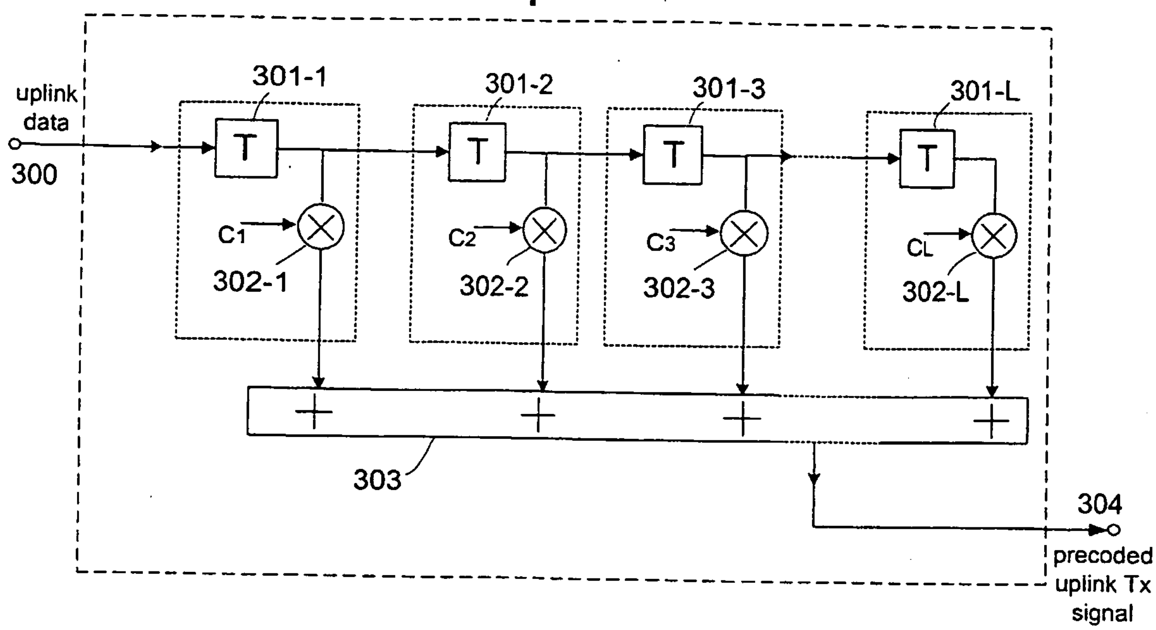


Figure 5

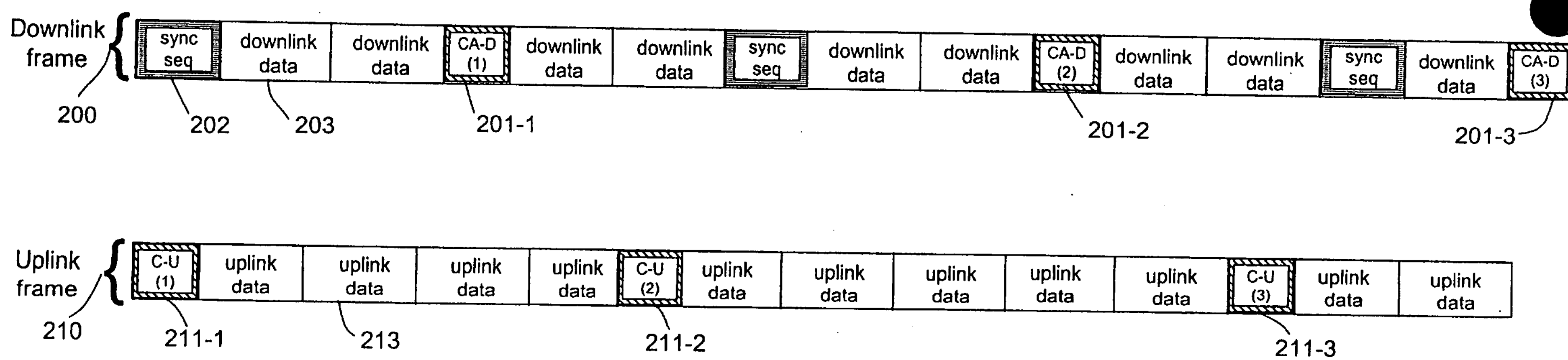
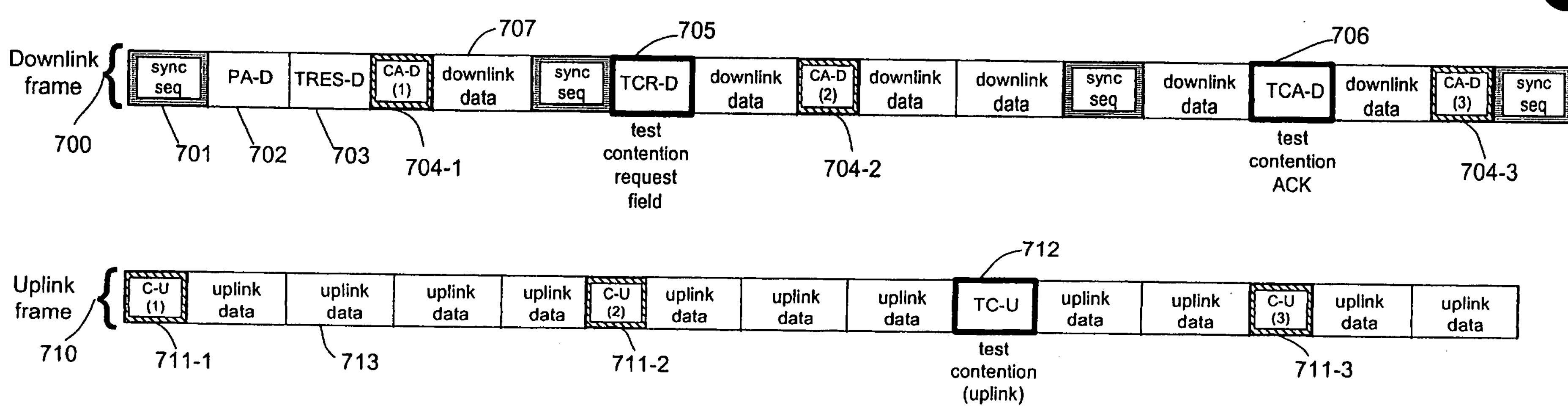

Downlink frame
sync seq
downlink data
downlink data
CA-D (1)
downlink data
downlink data
sync seq
downlink data
downlink data
CA-D (2)
downlink data
downlink data
sync seq
downlink data
CA-D (3)
200
202
203
201-1
201-2
201-3
Uplink frame
C-U (1)
uplink data
uplink data
uplink data
uplink data
C-U (2)
uplink data
uplink data
uplink data
uplink data
uplink data
C-U (3)
uplink data
uplink data
210
211-1
213
211-2
211-3

Figure 6



Downlink frame
700
sync seq
701
PA-D
702
TRES-D
703
CA-D (1)
704-1
downlink data
707
sync seq
TCR-D
705
test contention request field
downlink data
CA-D (2)
704-2
downlink data
downlink data
sync seq
downlink data
TCA-D
706
test contention ACK
downlink data
CA-D (3)
704-3
sync seq
Uplink frame
710
C-U (1)
711-1
uplink data
uplink data
713
uplink data
uplink data
C-U (2)
711-2
uplink data
uplink data
uplink data
TC-U
712
test contention (uplink)
uplink data
uplink data
C-U (3)
711-3
uplink data
uplink data

Figure 7

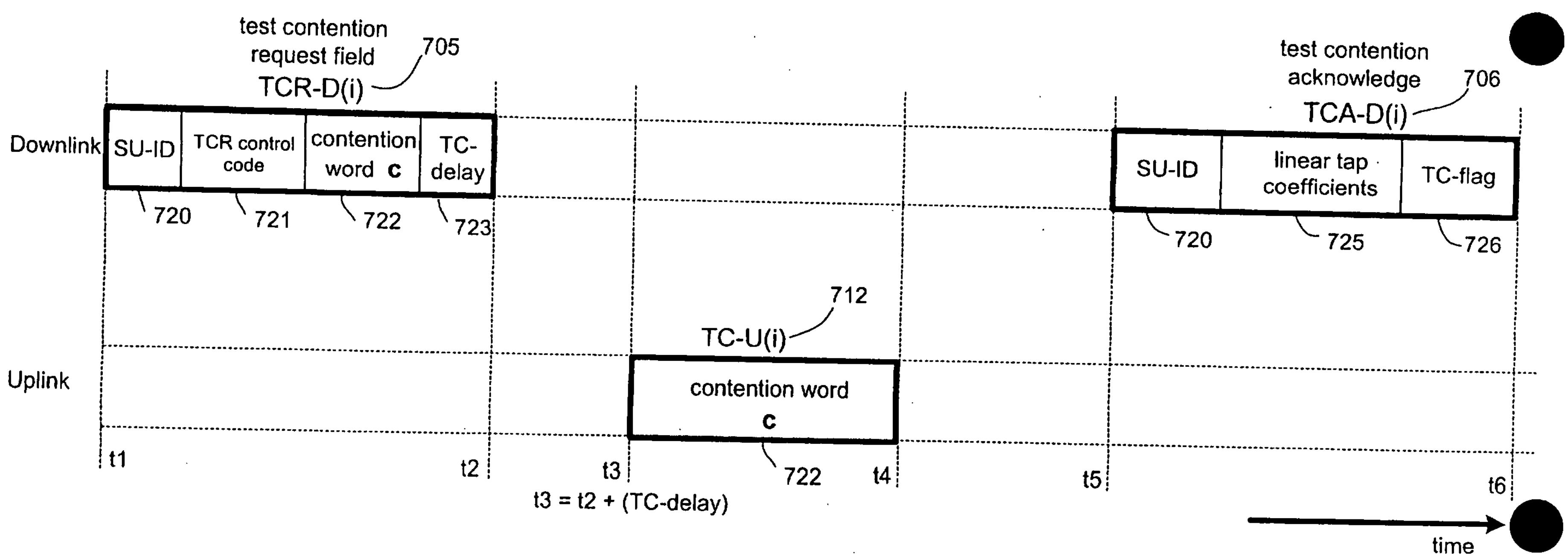
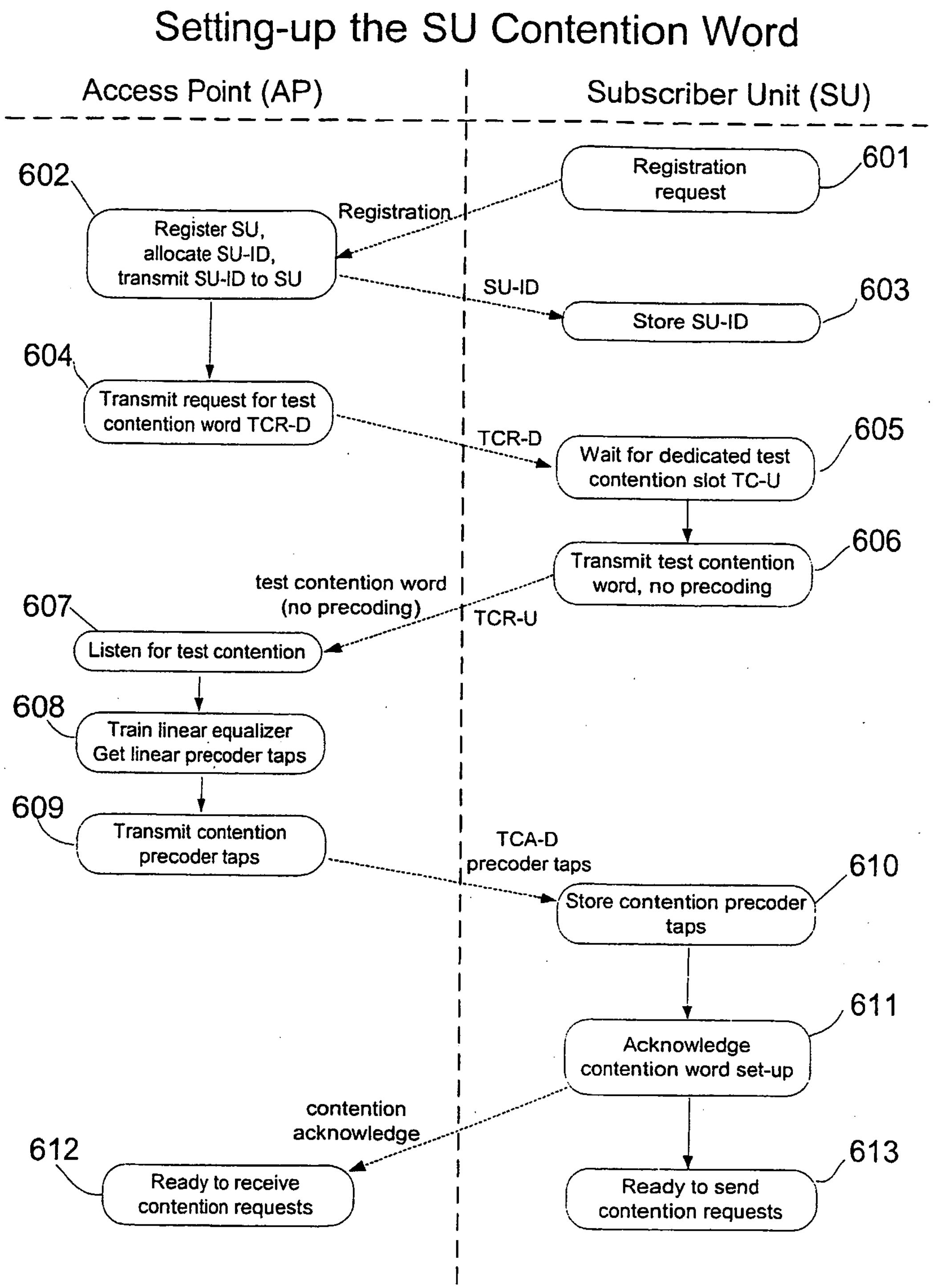

test contention
request field
TCR-D(i)
705
Downlink
SU-ID
TCR control code
contention word c
TC-delay
720
721
722
723
Uplink
TC-U(i)
712
contention word
c
722
t1
t2
t3
t4
t5
t6
t3 = t2 + (TC-delay)
test contention
acknowledge
TCA-D(i)
706
SU-ID
linear tap coefficients
TC-flag
720
725
726
time

Figure 8



Setting-up the SU Contention Word
Access Point (AP)
Subscriber Unit (SU)
Registration request
601
Registration
602
Register SU, allocate SU-ID, transmit SU-ID to SU
SU-ID
Store SU-ID
603
604
Transmit request for test contention word TCR-D
TCR-D
Wait for dedicated test contention slot TC-U
605
Transmit test contention word, no precoding
606
test contention word (no precoding)
TCR-U
607
Listen for test contention
608
Train linear equalizer Get linear precoder taps
609
Transmit contention precoder taps
TCA-D precoder taps
Store contention precoder taps
610
Acknowledge contention word set-up
611
contention acknowledge
612
Ready to receive contention requests
Ready to send contention requests
613

Figure 9

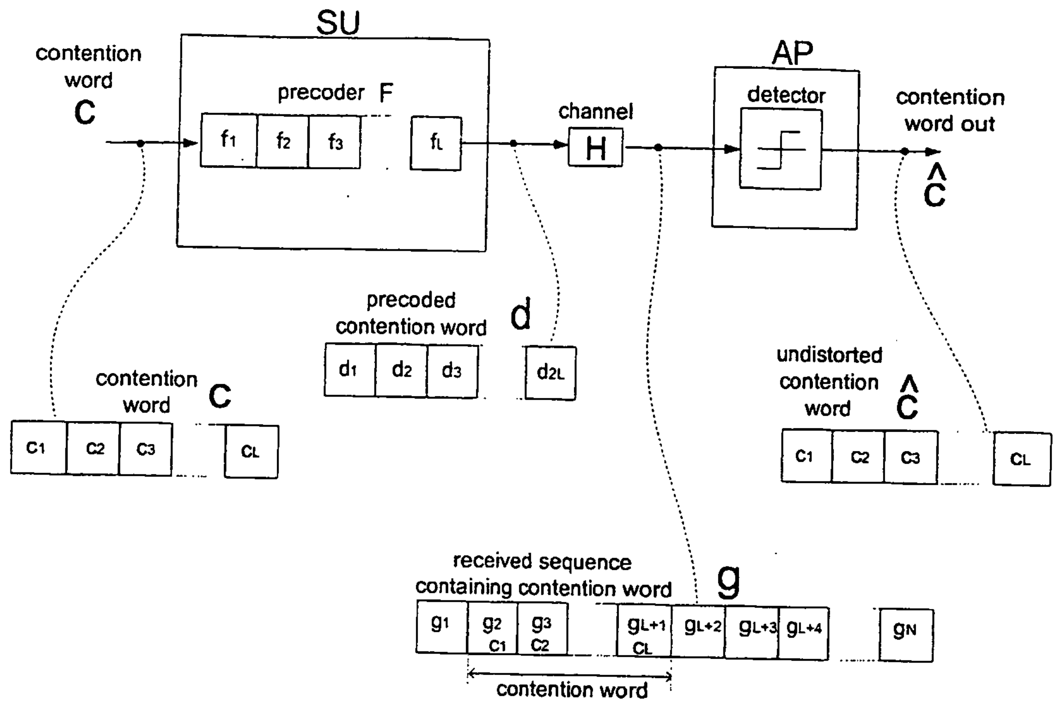


Figure 10

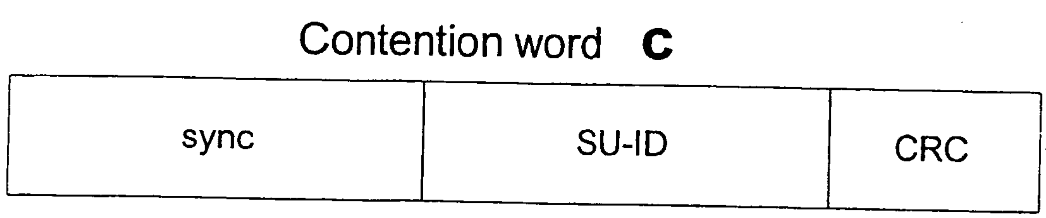


Figure 11

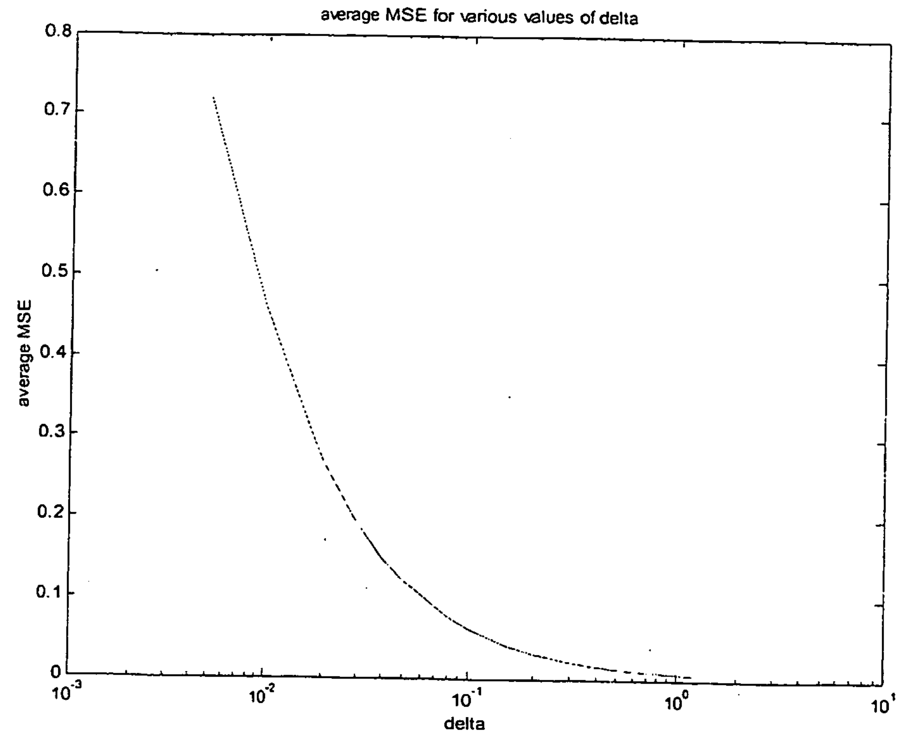


Figure 12 : Average MSE for various values of delta (δ)

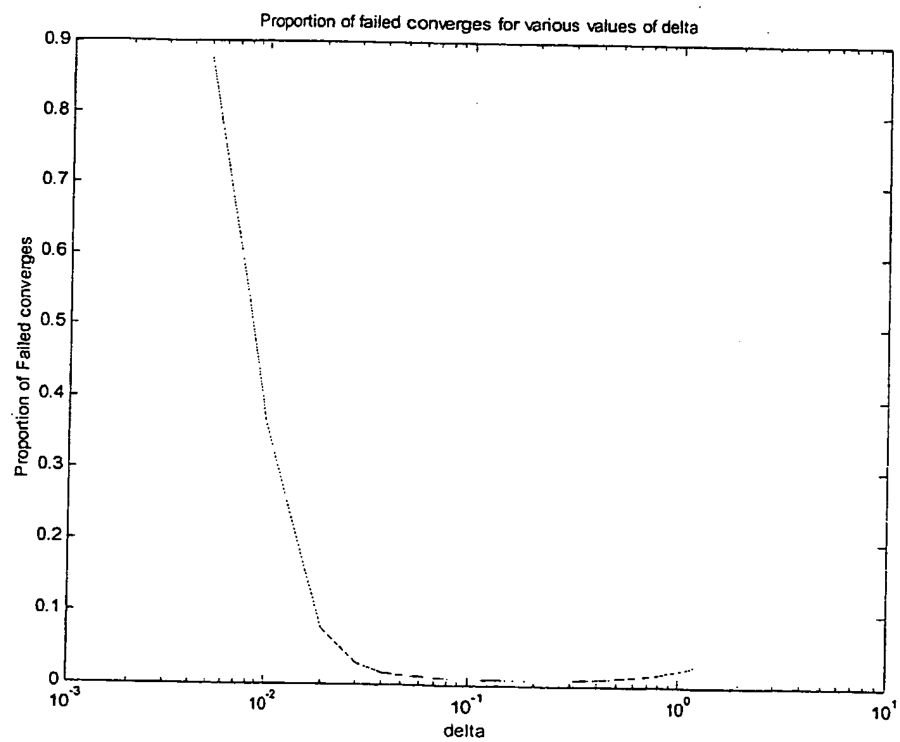


Figure 13 : Proportion of failed converges for various values of delta (δ)

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Method and Apparatus for Predistorting Data

The invention relates to a method of predistorting data to compensate for the impulse response of a channel over which it is to be transmitted.

The invention further relates to a fixed wireless access system comprising an access point and a plurality of subscriber units. The invention still further relates to an access point and to a subscriber unit for use in such a system.

In radio communications systems, multipath interference is a major obstacle to high speed data transmission. Multipath interference arises when the radio signal is reflected and diffracted by objects in its path such as buildings, trees and even vehicles. Multipath interference causes echos from a particular data symbol to overlap with neighbouring symbols and this is known as intersymbol interference. Some form of equalisation is necessary to remove the intersymbol interference from the received signal. Unfortunately the equalisation process requires complicated signal processing and for high speed real time data communication systems this can be a significant problem.

In a fixed wireless access communications network, many subscriber units communicate with a single access point using a time division multiple access protocol. In a point to multipoint fixed wireless access system, each

subscriber unit only receives data from a single access point and downlink bursts can often be heard by all subscriber units. Consequently, each subscriber unit has plenty of time to train its equaliser on the downstream channel. On the upstream channel however, signal transmissions occur between many different subscriber units and a single access point and so the access point has a very heavy equalisation burden as the channel characteristics of the different channels from the subscriber units to the access point may all be different and need different equalisation characteristics. As a result the equaliser at the access point will be required to adjust its coefficients rapidly to deal with bursts arriving from different subscriber units over channels having different impulse responses while the equaliser at each subscriber unit has the relatively simple task of equalising the single channel between itself and the access point. This is particularly significant when a frequency division duplex system is employed as there is no correlation between the upstream and downstream channels. During normal data transmission upstream data slots are scheduled by the access point which then knows the identity of the subscriber unit which is to transmit and therefore has prior knowledge of the impulse response of the channel between the scheduled subscriber unit and the access point. It is possible to use this prior knowledge to initialise the equaliser coefficients at the access point using a look up table so reducing training time and improving efficiency, assuming that the channel impulse response is unchanging or changes only slowly.

In order to obtain transmission time, each subscriber unit must first contend for channel access. This is achieved by

transmitting a unique subscriber unit identifier, called a contention word, to the access point during a known contention field. The access point decodes the subscriber unit identifier and allocates a field in a subsequent data frame to that subscriber unit for upstream data transmission. The contention word transmitted from the subscriber unit is distorted by multipath interference due to reflection and diffraction in the radio channel and since the subscriber units have different physical positions the paths between the subscriber units and the access point are different leading to the channel distortion being different for each subscriber unit. Consequently, the received contention signal must be equalised before it can be decoded. During this contention procedure, however, the access point does not know the identity of the subscriber unit which is transmitting during a particular contention slot. This means that the access point has no prior knowledge of the channel impulse response and so the access point must retrain its equaliser for each contention burst. This retraining introduces delays, requires increased transmission overhead for an equaliser training sequence, and requires high computational complexity at the access point.

It is known that a precoder can be used to invert the impulse response of a communications channel, also known as the channel impulse response. The precoder predistorts the data signal using the inverse of the channel response so that the received signal (after passing through the channel) is free from distortion. One possibility is to use a linear finite impulse response (FIR) filter resulting in a linear precoder. The problem with a linear precoder is that any roots of the channel impulse response

lying close to the unit circle will result in a very long FIR filter which may not be practically realisable. It is also possible to construct a precoder using a feedback or infinite impulse response (IIR) filter to invert the channel response. The problem with using an IIR filter is that the precoder is prone to instability.

A contention scheme disclosed in our copending UK Patent Application No: 0106604.2 (42559) relies on full precoding of the contention word at the subscriber unit and has the capability of removing a small number of critical zeros from the channel impulse response. It uses a linear precoder to cancel all roots of the channel impulse response except for those roots lying on the unit circle in the z plane. A root rotation method combined with pulse position modulation is used to remove critical zeros (zeros on the unit circle) from the channel response. In effect the input data word is modified to cancel out those zeros of the channel impulse response which the precoder is unable to cancel. The problem with this method is that some radio channels contain multiple critical zeros which are beyond the capacity of the root rotation method to remove.

The invention provides a fixed wireless access communications system comprising an access point and a plurality of subscriber units each transmitting a predetermined data sequence; in which each subscriber unit comprises a precoder for predistorting the predetermined data sequence to compensate for the characteristics of the upstream transmission channel between the subscriber unit and the access point wherein the system comprises means

for optimising the precoder characteristic specifically for the predetermined data sequence.

Such an optimised precoding scheme is suited to the contention process in a fixed wireless access communication system where each subscriber unit wishes to transmit a short predetermined sequence known as a contention word during the contention slot. Typically, each subscriber unit only needs to transmit a single fixed sequence for contention rather than a number of arbitrary data sequences. Consequently, it is possible to optimise the precoder specifically for this sequence. This gives the advantage that the contention word can usually be ideally precoded before transmission using a short precoder at the transmitter. A further advantage is that a linear precoder can be used avoiding the stability problems associated with non-linear precoders. Optimising the precoder for a unique data sequence allows more degrees of freedom for the precoder coefficients, so that a linear precoder can be selected that avoids roots lying near the unit circle in the z-plane. In a conventional linear precoder roots lying close to the unit circle in the z-plane result in a very long precoder. In addition, the length of the precoder is minimised which prevents excessive smearing of the received contention word in time, so minimising transmission overheads.

The precoder may be optimised using the recursive least squares algorithm. When using this algorithm the initial state of the signal correlation matrix P_o may be set to $P_o = \delta \mathrm{I}$, where $\delta > 0.1\sigma^2$ and σ^2 is the variance of the

data samples, and where I is the identity matrix. The number of iterations may be restricted to be not substantially greater than the length of the precoder. The length of the precoder may be made equal to the length of the predetermined data sequence.

This gives the advantage that by using a relatively small number of iterations the computational complexity and processing time are minimised while the precoding obtained is optimised for the actual data sequence being transmitted by setting the initial parameters using a knowledge of the sequence to be received and decoded.

Generally the recursive least squares (RLS) algorithm used to train an equaliser employs a large number of iterations and sets the value of δ to a very much lower value, typically $< 0.001\sigma^2$. This ensures that the initial conditions do not significantly affect the tap coefficients produced and the equaliser or the precoder is trained for all data sequences. When the constraints given above are applied to the RLS algorithm the initial conditions do affect the tap co-efficients and the precoder is optimised specifically for the predetermined sequence.

Clearly alternative algorithms for obtaining precoder (or equaliser) tap coefficients could be used to implement the invention provided that they are constrained to optimise the precoder for the specific data sequence. Examples of alternative algorithms which could be used include gradient search methods and the Moore-Penrose pseudo-inverse algorithm.

A frequency division duplex, time division multiplex protocol may be used for communication between the access point and the subscriber units.

Precoding of transmissions from subscriber units is particularly advantageous in such systems as the characteristics of the upstream channels between the subscriber units and the access point are not correlated with those of the downstream channels between the access point and the subscriber units. This increases the processing load at the access point as each transmission from the subscriber units has to be equalised if precoding is not used and during contention the access point has no prior knowledge of the upstream channel characteristics as it does not know which subscriber unit is transmitting until it has decoded the contention word.

The invention further provides a method of pre-distorting a predetermined data sequence to compensate for the impulse response of a channel over which the predetermined data sequence is to be transmitted comprising the steps of;

transmitting the predetermined data sequence without precoding over the channel using a first transmitter,

receiving the predetermined data sequence using a first receiver comprising an equaliser and equalising the received signal, using an algorithm that is constrained to optimise the equaliser specifically for the predetermined sequence, to enable the sequence to be decoded;

determining the equaliser coefficients required to enable the equaliser to equalise the received data sequence,

applying the determined equaliser coefficients to a second transmitter;

transmitting the equaliser coefficients to a second receiver using the second transmitter,

receiving the equaliser coefficients at the second receiver, and

loading the received equaliser coefficients into a precoder in the first transmitter when the predetermined sequence is subsequently transmitted so that it is received at the first receiver in a form suitable for decoding without equalisation at the first receiver.

By constraining the algorithm to optimise the equaliser for the predetermined sequence a linear equaliser of relatively short length can be used to enable the data sequence to be decoded and the precoder, which takes a similar form to the equaliser, is also of short length minimising smearing of the transmitted data sequence. Also, particularly when using the modified RLS algorithm to calculate the equaliser tap coefficients a relatively low computational complexity is involved and the reduced number of iterations result in a short processing time.

The first receiver and second transmitter may be located in the access point and the second receiver and first transmitter may be located in a subscriber unit wherein in order to set up the precoder to precode the contention word the following steps are implemented;

the access point is arranged to transmit a data field comprising a subscriber unit identifier, a test contention request control code, a contention word to be returned by the subscriber unit, and a test contention delay which

indicates a reserved time slot during which the subscriber unit should transmit the test contention word,

the subscriber unit is arranged to receive and decode the transmitted data field and to transmit the received contention word without precoding to the access point in the reserved time slot,

the access point is arranged to receive the contention word, to train a linear equaliser using the received contention word, and to determined the equaliser tap coefficients,

the access point is arranged to transmit to the subscriber unit a data field comprising the subscriber unit identifier, the determined equaliser tap coefficients, and a flag indicating that the test contention word has been successfully decoded, and

the subscriber unit is arranged to apply the received tap coefficients to a linear precoder to predistort the contention word on subsequent transmission of the contention word to the access point.

The first contention word transmitted by the subscriber unit is a test contention word that is not precoded and is transmitted in a reserved contention slot, that is reserved for the specific subscriber unit. This first contention word is used to determine the precoder coefficients using an equaliser at the access point that has the same structure as the precoder at the subscriber unit. All subsequent contention words are precoded before transmission and transmitted during a non-exclusive contention slot that is also used by other subscriber units for contention.

This allows, in a system according to the invention, for the contention word to be allocated to a subscriber unit by the access point, for the precoder tap coefficients to be calculated at the access point and transmitted to the subscriber unit and for the subscriber unit to subsequently precode the contention word whenever it wishes to contend for access to a transmission slot between itself and the access point.

The invention still further provides an access point for use in a system according to the invention, the access point comprising a linear equaliser for equalising a predetermined data sequence received over a transmission channel, wherein the equaliser is optimised specifically to equalise the predetermined data sequence.

The access point may comprise a control unit for implementing the algorithm used to train the equaliser and determining the equaliser tap coefficients and a transmitter for transmitting the determined equaliser tap coefficients to the subscriber unit that transmitted the predetermined data sequence to the access point. The predetermined data sequence may be a contention word, wherein the control unit is arranged to allocate a contention word to be transmitted by a subscriber unit, to cause the allocated contention word to be transmitted to a selected subscriber unit together with an instruction to the subscriber unit to transmit the allocated contention word without precoding at a given time, and to train the equaliser using the received contention word at the given time.

The invention yet further provides a subscriber unit for use in a system according to the invention, the subscriber unit comprising a transmitter for transmitting a predetermined data sequence over a transmission channel and a precoder for precoding the predetermined data sequence to compensate for the impulse response of the transmission channel, wherein the precoder is optimised specifically to precode the predetermined data sequence.

The subscriber unit may comprise a receiver for receiving data transmissions from an access point, a decoder for decoding the received data transmissions, a control unit for interpreting the data transmissions from the access point and controlling the response thereto of the subscriber unit, and a transmitter for transmitting data sequences to the access point; wherein the control unit is arranged to cause the subscriber unit to transmit a received contention word to the access point in response to an instruction received from the access point without precoding at a time specified by the access point and to apply precoding to the contention word on transmissions of the contention word subsequent to receiving precoder tap coefficients from the access point.

The above and other features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following description, by way of example, of embodiments of the invention with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which;

Figure 1 shows in block schematic form a generalised fixed wireless access communications system of known form;

Figure 2 shows in block schematic form a fixed wireless access system according to the invention;

Figure 3 shows in block schematic form an embodiment of a subscriber unit according to the invention for use in the system of Figure 2;

Figure 4 shows in block schematic form an embodiment of an access point according to the invention for use in the system of Figure 2;

Figure 5 shows in block schematic form a linear precoder which may be used in a system according to the invention;

Figure 6 shows upstream and downstream frames and shows in particular the contention word slots;

Figure 7 shows details of upstream and downstream frames indicating the method of setting up the contention word;

Figure 8 illustrates upstream and downstream frames showing the contention word set up fields in expanded form;

Figure 9 is a flow diagram illustrating the setting up of the subscriber unit contention word;

Figure 10 is a block schematic diagram of a subscriber unit and access point illustrating the setting up of the contention word;

Figure 11 shows the form of the contention word;

Figure 12 is a graph showing the variation of the average mean squared error and the value of δ; and

Figure 13 is a graph showing the value of δ plotted against the proportion of failed convergences.

As shown in Figure 1 a known fixed wireless access communications network comprises an access point 1 and a plurality of subscriber units 2-1, 2-2 to 2-N. Each subscriber unit is connected to the access point via a

downstream channel $\mathbf{h}_{1-1}$, $\mathbf{h}_{1-2}$ and $\mathbf{h}_{1-N}$ and upstream channels $\mathbf{h}_{2-1}$, $\mathbf{h}_{2-2}$ to $\mathbf{h}_{2-N}$. As discussed in the introduction, each of these channels will suffer multipath interference and each of the channels will have its own channel impulse response. Normally the subscriber units will be able to hear all downstream transmissions from the access point and consequently will have plenty of time to train an equaliser to remove intersymbol interference. In the upstream direction, however, each subscriber unit transmits to the access point over a separate channel using a time division multiplex protocol. As a result, the characteristics of the equaliser at the access point 1 have to be changed for each transmission from the subscriber units since the channel impulse responses for the transmissions from different subscriber units will be different. During normal data transmission this may be achieved by switching equaliser coefficients stored in a look up table depending on which subscriber unit has been allocated the particular upstream transmission time slot. That is the access point knows which subscriber unit is transmitting at any particular time and can preset its equaliser characteristics using a look up table storing the appropriate tap co-efficients, which have been determined using training sequences on previous transmissions to equalise the particular channel impulse response in the channel between the expected subscriber unit and the access point. During a contention slot, however, the access point has no knowledge of which subscriber unit is attempting to communicate with it. Thus, the equaliser has to be trained for every transmission as it has no prior knowledge of which transmission channel is being used and hence what its characteristics are. This imposes a large overhead as the

subscriber unit has to transmit a training sequence within the contention slot in order to enable the access point to train its equaliser.

As has been stated earlier, it is known that a precoder can be used to invert the channel impulse response before transmission. These precoders use some kind of filter or combination of filters to invert the channel impulse response so that any transmitted signal, after precoding and passing through the channel, is received undistorted at the receiver. The precoder transfer function F is the inverse of the channel transfer function H, so that FH=1. Thus any arbitrary data sequence input at the transmitter is received undistorted at the receiver. This holds true for all input sequences.

In our co-pending UK Patent Application No: 0106604.2 (42559) a linear precoder is used to avoid the stability problems associated with non-linear precoders. The linear precoder cancels all roots of the channel impulse response except for those roots lying on the unit circle in the z plane. A root rotation method combined with pulse position modulation is used to remove critical zeros (zeros on the unit circle) from the channel impulse response. In effect, the input data word is modified to cancel out those zeros of the channel impulse response which the precoder is unable to cancel. The difficulty with this method is that some channels contain multiple critical zeros which are beyond the capacity of the root rotation method to remove.

It is desirable to use pre-equalisation (precoding) for the contention word as proposed in our co-pending application, but a more robust method is desirable to deal

with the situation where multiple critical zeros of the channel impulse response lie on or close to the unit circle in the z plane.

Figure 2 shows in block schematic form a fixed wireless access system in which the invention may be implemented. The system shown in Figure 2 comprises an access point 501 and a plurality of subscriber units 502-1, 502-2 to 502-N. Transmission between the access point 501 and the subscriber units 502 is by means of a time division multiplex, frequency division duplex protocol. That is, the access point transmits data to the subscriber units at one carrier frequency and receives transmissions from each subscriber unit using a different carrier frequency, the subscriber units all transmitting at the same carrier frequency, but in time division multiplex form. As a result, all the subscriber units receive downstream data from the access point on the same carrier frequency, albeit over different channels. That is, the downstream channels $\mathbf{h}_{1-1}$, $\mathbf{h}_{1-2}$ to $\mathbf{h}_{1-N}$ will have different channel impulse responses but will continuously receive the transmissions from the access point even if they are not specifically addressed to that subscriber unit. The access point 501 will receive transmissions from the subscriber units over upstream channels $\mathbf{h}_{2-1}$, $\mathbf{h}_{2-2}$ to $\mathbf{h}_{2-N}$. Each of these channels will have a different channel impulse response and the transmissions will be time division multiplexed so that the access point receives bursts of data from each of the subscriber units in turn. Due to the different carrier frequencies used for upstream and downstream transmission, the downstream channel impulse responses $\mathbf{h}_{1-1}$ to $\mathbf{h}_{1-N}$ are not the same as the corresponding upstream channel responses $\mathbf{h}_{2-1}$ to $\mathbf{h}_{2-N}$.

Data sent by the access point is not precoded as all the subscriber units have sufficient time to equalise the channel characteristics between the access point and the respective subscriber unit, since they will normally receive all transmissions from the access point and the access point is transmitting relatively continuously. Thus each subscriber unit will include an equalizer to remove intersymbol interference from the transmissions of the access point and this equalizer has ample time to be trained to the channel characteristics. In the upstream direction, transmissions from the subscriber unit are precoded before being transmitted to compensate for the impulse response of the channel between the subscriber unit and the access point. This is because the access point would otherwise incur a substantial signal processing burden in equalising the channels from all the different subscriber units. This signal processing would have to be done in a short time period otherwise the transmission overheads would become excessive.

Figure 3 shows in block schematic form an embodiment of a subscriber unit according to the invention. As shown in Figure 3 the subscriber unit comprises an antenna 506 which is connected to the input of a receiver 507 and the output of a transmitter 508. The output of the receiver is fed to the input of an equaliser 509 whose output is connected to the input of a decoder 510. The output of the decoder 510 provides a data output 511 of the subscriber unit. The output of the decoder is also fed to an input of a control unit 512 which controls the operation of the subscriber unit. The control unit will typically comprise a processor with associated memory. A data input 513 is connected to the input of an encoder 514

which encodes the data to be transmitted and assembles it into appropriate data frames. The output of the encoder is fed via a switch 515 to the input of one of two precoders 516 and 517 or to a bypass line 519. The switch 515 is controlled by an output of the control unit 512 to cause the output of the encoder to be connected to one or other of the precoders 516 and 517 or to a bypass line 519. The outputs of the precoders 516 and 517 are connected to the input of the transmitter 508 to enable the data to be transmitted via the antenna 506 to the access point 501. A look up table 518 in the form of a random access memory is used to store the tap co-efficients of the precoders 516 and 517 and an output from the control unit 512 controls the loading of the tap co-efficients into the precoders 516 and 517. In some embodiments the precoders 516 and 517 and bypass line 518 may be a single FIR filter whose tap coefficients are loaded so that different coefficients are used depending on whether the contention word or more general data is being transmitted. In this case the switch 515 will be omitted.

The subscriber unit 502 is arranged to transmit a test contention word without precoding and in order to do this the switch 515 is set to position c so that the encoded data is applied to the transmitter 508 via the bypass line 519 and no precoding of the encoded contention word takes place. The test contention word is used in the access point to train an equaliser which has the same form as the linear precoder 517 in the subscriber unit. When the equaliser tap coefficients have been determined to enable the equaliser to equalise the channel impulse response specifically for the test contention word these tap

coefficients are transmitted to the subscriber unit and placed in the look up table 518.

When the subscriber unit 502 subsequently transmits a normal contention word the switch 515 is set to position b and the encoded contention word is fed from the encoder 514 to the transmitter 508 via the linear precoder 517 which is optimised specifically for precoding the contention word and not for precoding general data. The coefficients of the linear precoder 517 are loaded from the look up table 518 under the control of the control unit 512 whenever the contention word is to be transmitted. They have been placed in the look up table 518 as a result of receiving them from the access point. A linear equaliser in the access point, which takes the same form as the precoder 517, is trained using the test contention word transmitted without precoding and its tap coefficients determined. These tap coefficients are received by the subscriber unit and placed in the look up table 518 for use in precoding subsequent transmissions of the contention word.

When the subscriber unit transmits general data the switch 515 is set to position a and the encoded general data is fed from the encoder 514 to the transmitter 508 via the precoder 516 which has its coefficients set for precoding arbitrary data sequences. These coefficients are also stored in the look up table 518 and are applied to the precoder 516 under the control of the control unit 512 whenever general data sequences are to be transmitted.

Figure 4 shows in block schematic form an embodiment of an access point 501 in which the invention may be

implemented. The access point 501 comprises an antenna 530 which is connected to the input of a receiver 531 and the output of a transmitter 532. The output of the receiver 531 is connected via a switch 533 to respective inputs of a linear equalizer 535, an equalizer 536, which may take the form of a decision feedback equaliser, and a bypass line 537. The output of the receiver 531 is further connected to an input of a correlator 534 that establishes correct timing and provides timing information to a control unit 540. The outputs of the linear equalizer 535, equalizer 536, and bypass line 537 are connected to the input of a decoder 538. The output of the decoder 538 is fed to a data output 539 and to an input of the control unit 540. The control unit 540 has output which controls the switch 533 to select whether the bypass line 537, linear equalizer 535 or equalizer 536 are used in the decoding of the data sent from the subscriber units. The control unit 540 also enters data into a look up table 541, which may take the form of a read-write memory, and controls the reading out of the data into the equalizer 536 to enable the appropriate equalizer taps to be set up depending on which subscriber unit is transmitting to the access point at the time. The output of the linear equaliser 535 is additionally connected to an input of the control unit 540. A further read-write memory 545 is connected to the control unit 540 and to the linear equaliser 535. An input 542 receives data for transmission and is connected to the input of an encoder 543 whose output is fed to the transmitter 532. The encoder is controlled by an output from the control unit 540 which causes the data to be encoded and assembled into the appropriate frame structure.

When a test contention word is received during a reserved test contention time slot the switch 533 is set to position c and the control unit 540 runs the algorithm to train the linear equaliser 535 to the specific data sequence represented by the test contention word. Once the linear equaliser coefficients have been optimised they are read from the memory 545 by the control unit 540 and then applied to the encoder 543 for transmission to the subscriber unit that transmitted the test contention word in the reserved time slot.

When a normal contention word is received during a general contention slot the switch 533 is set to position b so that the received contention word is passed via the bypass line 537 to the decoder 538 as the contention word will have been precoded by the subscriber unit so that it arrives at the access point undistorted and can be directly decoded.

When general data is received the access point will know which subscriber unit has transmitted the general data as the access point allocates the time slots during which each subscriber unit can transmit. Consequently it also knows the channel impulse response of the channel over which the data is being transmitted. At this time the switch 533 is set to position a and the equaliser 536 is used to equalise the received data before applying it to the decoder 538. The coefficients for the equaliser 536 are stored in the look up table 541 and the appropriate set is loaded into the equaliser 536 under the control of the control unit 540.

As a result of this procedure the processing load in the access point is minimised as it only has to calculate the coefficients of the linear equaliser once for each subscriber unit which is registered with the access point when the subscriber unit first registers. Subsequent transmissions of the contention word are precoded so that no equalisation is required and no prior knowledge of which subscriber unit is transmitting the contention word is needed.

Figure 5 shows in block schematic form a finite impulse response (FIR) filter which may be used as the linear equaliser 535 in the access point 501 (Figure 4) and as the linear precoder 517 in a subscriber unit 502 (Figure 3).

The FIR filter has an input 300 which is connected to the input of the first of L series connected delay stages 301-1, 301-2 to 301-L. The output of each delay stage is connected to the first input of a respective multiplier 302-1, 302-2 to 302-L. Tap coefficient inputs C1, C2 to CL are connected to second inputs of the multipliers 302-1, 302-2 to 302-L. The outputs of the multipliers 302-1, 302-2 to 302-L are fed to respective inputs of a summing arrangement 303 whose output is coupled to the output 304 of the filter.

When used as the equaliser 535 in the access point the input 300 receives the output signal from the receiver 531, that is the data sequence transmitted by the subscriber unit without precoding, and the output 304 is coupled to the decoder 538. The tap coefficients C1 to CL are adjusted using the chosen algorithm and updated at

each iteration until the equaliser is optimised for the predetermined data sequence. The predetermined data sequence in the case of a fixed wireless access system is a contention word which the subscriber unit transmits in order to be allocated a time slot for transmission of general data.

When used as the linear precoder 517 in a subscriber unit the input 300 receives the predetermined data sequence (for example a contention word) from the encoder 514 and predistorts it using the filter characteristics to produce a predistorted data sequence at the output 304 which is fed to the transmitter 508. The filter tap coefficients are loaded from the look up table 518 and are the same as those determined in the access point 501 for the equaliser 535. By this means the predistortion generated by the linear precoder 517 will be the inverse of that introduced by the transmission channel and consequently the data will arrive at the access point substantially undistorted and not require equalisation before detection and decoding.

Frame structures for use in transmitting data between the access point and the subscriber units in both directions are shown in Figures 6, 7 and 8. As shown in Figure 6, the downstream frame 200 comprises a synchronisation sequence 202 and downstream data fields 203. Contention allocation data fields 201-1 to 201-3 are also transmitted which identify to individual subscriber units when they are allocated data slots to transmit data to the access point over the upstream channels. The upstream frames 210 include contention slots 211-1 to 211-3 during which a subscriber unit can send a contention word to ask the access point for transmission time. The upstream data

fields 213 contain the data sent by the subscriber units to the access point. These are the commonly transmitted frames which cater for the sending of data in both directions and for the subscriber units to obtain allocated transmission time slots.

Figure 7 shows further upstream and downstream frames which contain fields allowing the subscriber units and access point to set up the data channels between them by a process which will be described in greater detail with reference to Figure 9. These frames will be transmitted periodically inter-leaved with the normal data transmission frames. The downstream frame 700 comprises a synchronising sequence 701 followed by a power adjustment field 702 and a precoder initialisation field 703. Our co-pending UK patent applications nos. 0113887.4 (42557) and 0113888.2 (43066) disclose how those fields are used to set the power level at which the subscriber unit transmits data to the access point and to determine the tap coefficients for the precoder 516 used for general data transmission. The present invention is concerned, inter alia, with the initial set up of the contention word precoder 517. The power adjustment and precoder initialisation fields are followed by a contention allocation field CA-D 704-1 and downstream data fields 707. A test contention request field (TCR-D) 705 is transmitted which, as shown in Figure 8 comprises a subscriber unit identifier (SU-ID) 720, a control code (TCR control code) 721 signifying that the TCR-D field is a test contention request, the contention word to be used 722 and a test contention delay (TC-delay) 723 which specifies a dedicated time slot (TC-U) 712 in which the subscriber unit should send a test contention word 722

without precoding. The access point listens during the dedicated time slot TC-U 712 for the test contention word 722 transmitted by the subscriber unit and trains the linear equaliser 535 to equalise the unique test contention word used. When the equaliser 535 has been trained the tap coefficients are transmitted to the subscriber unit in a test contention acknowledgment field (TCA-D) 706. The test contention acknowledgment field 706 comprises the subscriber unit identity (SU-ID) 720, the linear tap coefficients 725 that were obtained after training the linear equaliser 535 using the contention word transmitted without precoding and which are to be used by the precoder 517 for future transmission of the contention word in the contention slots 711-1, 711-2, 711-3 etc, and a flag TC-flag 726 which is high when the access point has successfully decoded the test contention word in the time slot (TC-U) 712.

The method of setting up the subscriber unit contention word is illustrated in Figure 9. The process starts in step 601, with the subscriber unit transmitting a registration request. This informs the access point that the subscriber unit is active and wishes to register with that access point. On receiving a registration request the access point goes through a registration procedure, step 602, which allocates and transmits a unique code SU-ID to the subscriber unit which receives and stores this code in step 603. The access point then performs step 604 which consists of generating and transmitting a request for a test contention word. This request takes the form of field TCR-D 705 in Figures 7 and 8. The subscriber unit then receives and decodes the TCR-D field 705 and, if the SU-ID corresponds with that stored in step

603, it waits for the arrival of the dedicated test contention slot TC-U 712, step 605, and then, in step 606, transmits the test contention word 722 with no precoding. The access point then, in step 607, listens for the transmitted test contention word during the TC-U time slot 712 and, in step 608, trains the linear equaliser 535 to determine the equaliser tap coefficients. These correspond to the required tap coefficients for the linear precoder 517 in the subscriber unit so the next step, 609, is to transmit the precoder tap coefficients to the subscriber unit. This is done using the test contention acknowledge TCA-D field 706. The subscriber unit then receives the field TCA-D 706 and decodes and stores the precoder tap coefficients, step 610. The subscriber unit then, in step 611, sends an acknowledgment to the access point that it has received the tap coefficients and, in step 612, the access point readies itself to receive contention requests from the subscriber unit. That is, in the embodiment shown in Figure 4 it will set switch 533 to position b during contention slots. Similarly the subscriber unit then readies itself, step 613, to send normal contention requests which are passed through the linear precoder 517 to predistort the contention word before transmission so that the access point can decode it without having to equalise it. This is achieved in the embodiment shown in Figure 3 by setting the switch 515 to position b when a contention word is to be transmitted.

As in UK Patent Application No: 0106604.2 (42559) a linear precoder is used to avoid the stability problems associated with non-linear precoders. In the present invention however, the precoder transfer function F is not adjusted to be the inverse of the channel transfer

function H. Instead the precoder transfer function F is optimised for an individual data sequence so that the particular data sequence arrives undistorted at the receiver. Thus, for a particular data sequence X_1 a unique precoder is calculated with transfer function F_1. Transfer function F_1 is calculated to ensure that when the unique sequence X_1 is passed through the precoder and the transmission channel it will arrive at the receiver undistorted. A particular encoder F_N can only be used to precode the unique data sequence X_N which corresponds to it. This relaxes the constraints on the precoder transfer function F, so that the unique transfer function F_N is more easily realisable with a linear finite impulse response filter. Any other data sequence precoded using these tap coefficients will not normally be decodable on reception.

In order to set up the precoder for a particular data sequence X_N, a test signal consisting of the sequence X_N is transmitted over the channel without any precoding as illustrated in steps 604 to 607 of Figure 9. The length of the sequence X_N is L symbols. The linear equaliser 535 at the receiver in the access point is then trained using an adaptive algorithm which trains the equaliser specifically for the sequence X_N. After training is complete the tap coefficients of the linear equaliser are transmitted back to the subscriber unit and stored in a look up table at a location corresponding to the particular sequence X_N for later use as precoder coefficients. The linear equaliser 535 at the access point is not further used and is now deactivated because a subsequent data burst from the transmitter in the subscriber unit will be precoded. Whenever the subscriber unit wishes to transmit the sequence X_N it accesses the

look up table 518, retrieves the tap coefficients corresponding to the sequence X_N, and loads these coefficient values into the taps of the linear precoder 517. The data sequence X_N is then passed through the linear precoder 517 and transmitted over the channel arriving undistorted at the receiver. In a typical embodiment each subscriber unit will use a single unique contention word and, consequently, will only require a single set of tap coefficients for the linear precoder 517. In this case the look up table 518 may not be required.

In one embodiment of the invention, the length of the precoder is set to be equal to the length of the data sequence L. The linear equaliser at the access point also has length L. The linear equaliser 535 at the access point is then trained using an adaptive algorithm constrained in such a way that the equaliser compensates channel distortion only for the unique training sequence used. An example of a suitable adaptive algorithm is a modified version of the recursive least squares (RLS) algorithm with the number of iterations limited to L. It is well known to use the RLS algorithm to calculate the tap co-efficients for an equaliser but in the known arrangement the RLS algorithm has always operated with substantially more iterations than the length of the sequence L in order to make the equaliser taps independent of the training sequence, since it has been desired to cause the equaliser to equalise all data sequences. According to an embodiment of the present invention, the number of iterations used by the RLS algorithm is intentionally limited to be not substantially more than L symbols with the express intention of making the equaliser

taps converge to a set of values which are optimised only for the unique training sequence used, which is in practice the contention word.

As known in the art, see for example "Digital Communications" by J.G. Proakis published by McGraw-Hill 1995, the RLS algorithm uses least squares to solve the set of linear equations:

$$R_k F_k = D_k \qquad (1)$$

where: R_k is the signal correlation matrix defined as:

$$R_k = \sum_{n=0}^{k} w^{k-n} Y_n^* Y_n^T \qquad (2)$$

Y_k is the vector of received signal samples

F_k is the vector of equalisation taps

D_k is the cross correlation vector defined as:

$$D_k = \sum_{n=0}^{k} w^{k-n} X(n) Y_n^* \qquad (3)$$

$X(k)$ is the transmitted symbol of time interval k

w is a weighting factor $0 < w < 1$

The solution is given as:

$$F_k = R_k^{-1} D_k \tag{4}$$

$$P_k = R_k^{-1} \tag{5}$$

The RLS algorithm minimises the cost function $\varepsilon(n)$:

$$\varepsilon(n) = \sum_{i-l}^{n} \lambda^{n-i} |e(i)|^2 \tag{6}$$

where $e(k)$ is the error between the desired symbol and the estimated symbol at the slicer input, at time k. The RLS algorithm computes the solution to equation (4) iteratively, using the following procedure.

1. Compute output:

$$z(k) = Y_k^T F_{k-1} \tag{7}$$

2. Compute error:

$$e(k) = x(k) - z(k) \tag{8}$$

3. Compute Kalman gain vector:

$$K_k = \frac{P_{k-1} Y_k^*}{w + Y_k^T P_{k-1} Y_k^*} \tag{9}$$

4. Update inverse of correlation matrix:

$$P_k = \frac{1}{w}\left[P_{k-1} - K_k Y_k^T P_{k-1}\right] \tag{10}$$

5. Update equalizer coefficients:

$$F_k = F_{k-1} + K_k e(k) = F_{k-1} + P_k Y_k^* e(k) \tag{11}$$

The steps 1-5 above are repeated for a number of iterations, until the equalizer coefficients converge. In order to avoid stability problems due to an ill-conditioned correlation matrix, it is known in the art to initialize the matrix P_k to $P_0 = \delta I$ where I is the identity matrix, and δ is a small positive number. The value δ must be chosen so that $\delta << 0.01\sigma_x^2$ where σ_x^2 is the variance of the data samples. For the case of QPSK signals, for example, $\sigma_x^2 = 1$ and so δ should be chosen as $\delta \leq 0.001$. For large training sequence lengths relative to the equalizer length, the exact value of δ does not have a significant effect, provided $\delta << 0.01\sigma_x^2$. This is known as soft-constrained initialisation.

The effect of the initialisation $P_0 = \delta I$ soon disappears as the number of iterations is substantially greater than the length of the equalizer, and the forgetting factor w causes exponential weighting of past data. This causes the equalizer taps to converge to a solution providing channel equalization independent of the input data sequences. Thus it is seen that in the case of soft-constrained initialisation, the initialisation merely ensures smooth start-up of the algorithm, but does not substantially influence the final result.

The present invention uses a modified version of the RLS algorithm which calculates equalizer tap values for channel equalization that are specifically optimised for a given data sequence. This method uses hard-constrained

initialisation of the RLS algorithm, so that the initialisation state of the correlation matrix has a substantial effect on the final equalizer tap values. The inverse correlation matrix is initialized to $P_0 = \delta I$ where δ is chosen to have an unusually high value, that is greater than 0.2 and preferably in the range $0.5 \le \delta \le 1.2$, with a particularly preferred value of $\delta = 1$, assuming $\sigma_x^2 = 1$. The graph shown in Figure 11 illustrates that to reduce the mean square error (MSE) to a low value, the value of δ should be higher than 0.2. The graph shown in Figure 12 illustrates that if the value of δ is smaller than 0.05, then the modified RLS algorithm fails to converge in a large proportion of channels. Therefore, to achieve good performance, the range of δ should be restricted to $0.2 \le \delta \le 1.2$, normalised to $\sigma_x^2 = 1$. The number of iterations is restricted to be not substantially greater than and preferably to be less than or equal to the length of the equalizer, which is unusually low. This may be contrasted with the normal use of the RLS algorithm to set equalizer co-efficients for any data sequence where the number of iterations is chosen to be much greater than the length of the equalizer. The forgetting factor w is set to a high value of 1, so that the effect of the autocorrelation matrix initialisation does not decay rapidly with time and, consequently, has a large influence on the final tap coefficient values.

These parameters result in a novel operating mode of the RLS algorithm. Instead of the effect of $P_0 = \delta I$

disappearing, the small number of iterations and high values of δ and w ensure that P_0 has a very significant effect on the final values of the equalizer coefficients. As a result tap coefficients are produced which are optimised for the data sequence X_n, but not for any other sequence.

Using this new initialisation procedure requires a change in the RLS cost function. Instead of minimizing the cost function $\varepsilon(n)$ as in equation (6) above, the algorithm now minimises the modified cost function $\varepsilon_M(n)$:

$$\varepsilon_M(n) = \delta\lambda^n\|F_n\|^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \lambda^{n-i}|e(i)|^2$$

with $\delta = 1$ and $\lambda = 1$, so that

$$\varepsilon_M(n) = \|F_n\|^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{n} |e(i)|^2 \qquad (12)$$

where $\|F_n\|^2$ is the squared norm of F_n calculated as

$\|F_n\|^2 = \sum_{j=1}^{L} |f_{jn}|^2$, and $F_n = [f_{1n}, f_{2n}, \ldots, f_{Ln}]$

Minimisation of the cost function $\varepsilon_M(n)$ with the number of iterations restricted to be less than or equal to the number of equalizer taps, results in an equalizer which is optimised for the particular data sequence used during training.

The modified RLS algorithm described here has the additional advantage of very low complexity due to the reduced number of iterations. The only significant disadvantage of this mode of operation is that the statistical noise rejection properties of the RLS algorithm are reduced because of the reduced number of iterations. This is in contrast to the conventional operating mode of the RLS algorithm, whereby the equalizer taps are trained to be independent of the input data sequence, and the number of iterations needed to train the equalizer is substantially higher. In the conventional mode of operation, the RLS algorithm has very good noise rejection.

An alternative to solving for the equalizer taps iteratively using the modified RLS algorithm, would be to solve for the taps directly using the Moore-Penrose pseudo-inverse (MPPI) algorithm, which performs matrix inversion. The MPPI algorithm is commonly used for solving over-determined matrix equations. In this case it is necessary to constrain the MPPI solution to be specific to the given data sequence, for example the contention word sequence. This method becomes very computationally intensive as the length of the contention word sequence increases.

In a further alternative embodiment of the invention, an optimisation algorithm using a gradient search method (for example the method of steepest descent), is used to adapt the linear equalizer at the receiver and so produce coefficients for the precoder which are optimized for the unique data sequence **X**. This optimization algorithm, however, requires substantially more iterations than the modified RLS algorithm described previously herein.

The precoding procedure for the contention word is illustrated in Figure 10, where the contention word **c**, is the unique data sequence $\mathbf{X}_n$. The contention word, **c**, (of length *L*) is passed through the precoder **F** (of length *L*), to produce a precoded contention word, **d** (of length *2L*). The precoded contention word is then transmitted through the channel, **H** (of length *hlen*), and arrives at the receiver as a sequence **g**, (of length *N=2L+hlen*) which contains an undistorted copy of the contention word **c**. The contention word **c** is illustrated in Figure 11 and consists of a first part which is a known synchronisation sequence, and a second part consisting of the SU-ID and a third part which is the cyclic redundancy check (CRC). The AP uses the correlator 534 to synchronise with the position of the first part (sync sequence) of the contention word in the received sequence **g**. This allows the AP to extract the whole contention word **c** from **g**. The detector at the AP decodes the SU-ID contained in the second part of the contention word, **c**, and verifies it using the CRC. Since the contention word **c** is undistorted on reception at the AP, the correlator at the AP operates at a very high signal-to-noise ratio (SNR), providing

accurate synchronization which would not be possible without precoding. The detector used to decode the contention word at the AP may be a simple symbol detector (for example, an amplitude level detector), which is possible because the contention word is undistorted. Thus the delay in decoding the contention word is very low, resulting in high efficiency.

The optimized precoding scheme as disclosed herein is ideally suited to the contention process in a wireless network, where each subscriber unit wishes to transmit a short, unique sequence during the contention slot. Typically, each SU only needs to transmit a single, fixed sequence for contention (rather than a number of arbitrary data sequences), which makes it possible to optimize the precoder specifically for this sequence. An advantage of the invention is that the contention word can generally be sufficiently precoded before transmission using a short precoder to enable detection at the access point without using equalisation. A further advantage of the invention is that a linear precoder is used, so avoiding the stability problems associated with non-linear precoders. A further advantage of the invention is that the length of the precoder is minimised, which prevents excessive smearing of the received contention word in time, so minimizing transmission overhead. A further advantage of the invention is that the process for determining the precoder tap coefficients requires only a small number of iterations of the RLS algorithm, thus computational complexity and processing time are low.

CLAIMS

1. A fixed wireless access (FWA) communications system comprising an access point and a plurality of subscriber units each transmitting a predetermined data sequence; in which each subscriber unit comprises a precoder for predistorting the predetermined data sequence to compensate for the characteristics of the upstream transmission channel between the subscriber unit and the access point wherein the system comprises means for optimising the precoder characteristic specifically for the predetermined data sequence.

2. A system as claimed in Claim 1 in which the precoder is a linear finite impulse response filter.

3. A system as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2 in which the predetermined data sequence is a contention word.

4. A system as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 3 in which the precoder is optimised using the recursive least squares algorithm.

5. A system as claimed in Claim 4 wherein the initial state of the signal correlation matrix P_o is set to $P_o = \delta I$, where $\delta > 0.1\sigma^2$ and σ^2 is the variance of the data samples, and where I is the identity matrix.

6. A system as claimed in Claim 4 or Claim 5 in which the number of iterations is restricted to be not substantially greater than the length of the precoder.

7 A system as claimed in any preceding claim in which the length of the precoder is equal to the length of the predetermined data sequence.

8. A system as claimed in any preceding claim in which a frequency division duplex, time division multiplex protocol is used for communication between the access point and the subscriber units.

9. .A fixed wireless access (FWA) communications system comprising an access point and a plurality of subscriber units substantially as described herein with reference to the accompanying drawings.

10. A method of pre-distorting a predetermined data sequence to compensate for the impulse response of a channel over which the predetermined data sequence is to be transmitted comprising the steps of;

transmitting the predetermined data sequence without precoding over the channel using a first transmitter,

receiving the predetermined data sequence using a first receiver and equalising the received signal, using an algorithm that is constrained to optimise the equaliser specifically for the predetermined sequence, to enable the data sequence to be decoded;

determining the equaliser coefficients required to enable the equaliser to equalise the received data sequence,

applying the determined equaliser coefficients to a second transmitter;

transmitting the equaliser coefficients to a second receiver using the second transmitter,

receiving the equaliser coefficients at the second receiver, and

loading the received equaliser coefficients into a precoder in the first transmitter when the predetermined sequence is subsequently transmitted so that it is received at the first receiver in a form suitable for decoding without equalisation at the first receiver.

11. A method as claimed in Claim 10 in which the algorithm is the recursive least squares algorithm.

12. A method as claimed in Claim 11 in which the initial state of the correlation matrix P_o is set to $P_o = \delta\mathrm{I}$, where $\delta > 0.1\sigma^2$ and σ^2 is the variance of the data samples, and where I is the identity matrix.

13. A method as claimed in Claim 11 or Claim 12 in which the number of iterations is restricted to be not substantially greater than the length of the decoder.

14. A method as claimed in any of Claims 10 to 13 in which the length of the decoder is equal to the length of the predetermined data sequence.

15. A method as claimed in any of Claims 10 to 14 for use in a system as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 9 in which the predetermined sequence is a contention word.

16. A method as claimed in Claim 15 in which the first receiver and second transmitter are located in the access point and the second receiver and first transmitter

are located in a subscriber unit wherein in order to set up the precoder to precode the contention word the following steps are implemented;

the access point is arranged to transmit a data field comprising a subscriber unit identifier, a test contention request control code, a contention word to be returned by the subscriber unit, and a test contention delay which indicates a reserved time slot during which the subscriber unit should transmit the test contention word,

the subscriber unit is arranged to receive and decode the transmitted data field and to transmit the received contention word without precoding to the access point in the reserved time slot,

the access point is arranged to receive the contention word, to train a linear equaliser using the received contention word, and to determine the equaliser tap coefficients,

the access point is arranged to transmit to the subscriber unit a data field comprising the subscriber unit identifier, the determined equaliser tap coefficients, and a flag indicating that the test contention word has been successfully decoded, and

the subscriber unit is arranged to load the received tap coefficients into a linear precoder to predistort the contention word on subsequent transmission of the contention word to the access point.

17. A method of pre-distorting a predetermined data sequence to compensate for the impulse response of a channel over which the predetermined data sequence is to be transmitted, the method being substantially as described herein with reference to the accompanying drawings.

18. An access point for use in a system as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 9, the access point comprising a linear equaliser for equalising a predetermined data sequence received over a transmission channel, wherein the equaliser is optimised specifically to equalise the predetermined data sequence.

19. An access point as claimed in Claim 18 in which the equaliser is a linear finite impulse response filter.

20. An access point as claimed in Claim 18 or Claim 19 in which the predetermined data sequence is a contention word.

21. An access point as claimed in any of Claims 18 to 20 in which the equaliser is optimised using the recursive least squares algorithm.

22. An access point as claimed in Claim 21 wherein the initial state of the signal correlation matrix P_o is set to $P_o = \delta I$, where $\delta > 0.1\sigma^2$ and σ^2 is the variance of the data samples, and where I is the identity matrix.

23. An access point as claimed in Claim 21 or Claim 22 in which the number of iterations is restricted to be not substantially greater than the length of the equaliser.

24. An access point as claimed in any of Claims 18 to 23 in which the length of the equaliser is equal to the length of the predetermined data sequence.

25. An access point as claimed in any of Claims 18 to 24 comprising a control unit for implementing the algorithm used to train the equaliser and determining the equaliser tap coefficients and a transmitter for transmitting the determined equaliser tap coefficients to the particular subscriber unit that transmitted the predetermined data sequence to the access point.

26. An access point as claimed in any of Claims 18 to 25 in which the predetermined data sequence is a contention word, wherein the processor is arranged to allocate a contention word to be transmitted by a subscriber unit, to cause the allocated contention word to be transmitted to a selected subscriber unit together with an instruction to the subscriber unit to transmit the allocated contention word without predistortion at a given time, and to train the equaliser using the received contention word at the given time.

27. An access point substantially as described herein with reference to the accompanying drawings.

28. A subscriber unit for use in a system as claimed in any of Claims 1 to 9, the subscriber unit comprising a transmitter for transmitting a predetermined data sequence over a transmission channel and a precoder for predistorting the predetermined data sequence to compensate for the impulse response of the transmission channel, wherein the precoder is optimised specifically to predistort the predetermined data sequence.

29. A subscriber unit as claimed in Claim 28 in which the precoder is a linear finite impulse response filter.

30. A subscriber unit as claimed in Claim 28 or Claim 29 in which the predetermined data sequence is a contention word.

31. A subscriber unit as claimed in any of Claims 28 to 30 comprising a receiver for receiving data transmissions from an access point, a decoder for decoding the received data transmissions, a control unit for interpreting the data transmissions from the access point and controlling the response thereto of the subscriber unit, and a transmitter for transmitting data sequences to the access point; wherein the control unit is arranged to cause the subscriber unit to transmit a received contention word to the access point in response to an instruction received from the access point without precoding at a time specified by the access point and to apply precoding to the contention word on transmissions of the contention word subsequent to receiving precoder tap coefficients from the access point.

32. A subscriber unit substantially as described herein with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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Application No:	GB 0118288.0	**Examiner:**	Owen Wheeler
Claims searched:	1-32	**Date of search:**	26 February 2002

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Databases searched:

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.T): H4P (PRE)

Int Cl (Ed.7): H04L: 25/02, 25/03

Other: Online: EPODOC, JAPIO, WPI

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage		Relevant to claims
A	GB 2347054 A	[ADAPTIVE BROADBAND]	
A	GB 2262866 A	[AT&T]	
A	EP 1063784 A1	[MATSUSHITA]	

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
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